

**WETLAND EVALUATION FORM
HILTON HEAD ISLAND**

Seasonally Flooded/Saturated

Location of property with subject wetland/wetlands (SW): _____

Owner/Agent: _____

Number of wetlands on property: _____ **Total wetland area:** _____ Ac

Delineation approved by Army Corps? Y ____ N ____ **Date:** _____

Note on scoring: All “Yes” answers (Y) equal 10 points; all “No” answers equal 0 points, unless otherwise indicated. Multiple lists are scored per directions following each question.

I. GEOGRAPHY

1. Landscape position of SW:

1. Fringe to tidal marsh landward of SCCC Critical line
2. Fringe to flowing fresh water or drainage course leading to a larger surface water body
3. Fringe to an open body of water
4. Isolated basin
5. Isolated depression between dune ridges

Scoring: 1-2 = 15; 3=10; 4-5=5

2. Topography of SW and adjacent lands: List by %

- (1) over 8% (2) 2-8% (3) 0-2%

Scoring: (1) = 15; (2) = 10; (3) = 5

3. Other wetlands present within 500 feet from the edge of the SWs: Y ____ N ____

4. If “Yes” to # 3, list the landscape position of other wetlands within 500 feet from the edge of the SW. Attach the appropriate scoring.

5. Is the SW within ½ mile of tidal waters? Y ____ N ____

6. Is the SW a “unique heritage” system with rare landscape position on Hilton Head Island? Y ____ N ____

7. Is the SW part of a cluster of wetlands within 500 feet of the edge of the SW?
Y ____ N ____
8. Green links: Is the SW connected to other wetlands within 550 feet by vegetated or surface water corridors? Y ____ N ____ Circle the appropriate answer.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION I: 95 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

II VEGETATION

1. Do normal environmental conditions exist in the vegetative community in the SW?
Y ____ N ____
2. Is vegetation disturbed in the SW? N ____ Y ____ “N” = 10; “Y” = 0
- Circle the vegetation disturbances, including but not limited to filling, dredging, draining, flooding, shadowing by structures, clear cutting, burning, dumping, compaction, vehicular traffic or other: _____
- _____
3. Is the SW “man-induced” from spoil disposal, farming, impounding, excavation, creation as mitigation or other human activities? N ____ Y ____ “N”=10; “Y”=0
Circle the appropriate answer.
4. List the Prevalence Index for the SW: _____. Is the Prevalence Index:
____ 1.0 – 1.9 (15 Points)
____ 2.0 – 2.5 (10 Points)
____ >2.5 (5 Points)
5. Categorize the vegetation diversity:
____ 66 – 100% (15 Points)
____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)
6. Categorize the edge irregularity:
____ 66 – 100% (15 Points)
____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)
7. Do unusual or rare vegetation species inhabit the SW? Y ____ N ____ Name them.

8. **Do morphological adaptations exist in plants in the SW and/or the nonwetland perimeter?** Y ____ N ____ (within ____ feet of SW)

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION II: 95 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

III SOILS

1. **SCS Soil Series of SW (per the delineation data sheets):**

(1) Capers	(4) Polawana	(7) Fripp-Baratari
(2) Bohicket	(5) Rhosedhu	(8) Sewee
(3) Coastal Beach	(6) Baratari	(9) Williman

Scoring: (1)-(3) = 15; (4)-(6) = 10; (7)-(9) = 5

2. **Categorize the primary source of sediment:**

_____ Water column	(15 Points)
_____ Overland runoff	(10 Points)
_____ Detritus	(5 Points)

3. **Physical soil disturbance observed:** N ____ Y ____
“N”=10; “Y”=0. Indicators: Tilling; filling; grading; dumping;
excavation; berming; impoundment(s); vehicular travel causing compaction
and/or rutting; sedimentation; substrate erosion; ditching; trenching;
other (list): _____
Circle the appropriate indicator.

4. **High nutrient concentration observed:** N ____ Y ____
“N”=10; “Y”=0. Factors to consider: Algal bloom, eutrophication, reclaimed water
(advanced-treated effluent) disposal; sewage (not advanced-treated effluent) input; other
(list): _____
Circle the appropriate factors.

5. **Contamination sources observed or reported:** N ____ Y ____ “N”=10; “Y”=0.
List date of observation or report: _____. Evidence of waterborne or sedimentary
contaminants: sewage outfalls; landfills; leaking subsurface tanks; pesticide treated area;
oil runoff; heavily traveled highways; other (list): _____
Circle the appropriate factors.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION III: 60 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

IV HYDROLOGY

1. **Categorize the flooding duration of the SW (per SCS Soil Survey, Table 18 and observations):**

_____ Very long/long (10 Points)
_____ Long (5 Points)
_____ None (0 Points)

2. **Categorize the high water table (below surface) of the SW (per SCS Soil Survey, Table 18 and observations):**

_____ +1.0 – 1.0 ft. (15 Points)
_____ 1.0 – 1.5 ft. (10 Points)
_____ >1.5 ft. (5 Points)

3. **What percentage is SW permanently saturated at surface?**

_____ > or equal to 67% (15 Points)
_____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
_____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)

4. **Is the SW's existence dependent upon a water control device, either upstream or downstream?** N _____ Y _____ "N"=10; "Y"=0

5. **Are there any disturbances to hydrology in the SW?** N _____ Y _____
"N"=10; "Y"=0 Disturbances include: Turbidity from runoff; groundwater withdrawal; diversion/alteration of runoff into or out of the SW; alteration of runoff through SW; unstable, transitional channels; reduction of flood storage; flooding with reclaimed water; impoundments artificially maintaining water levels above natural hydroperiod; other (list): _____
Circle the appropriate answer.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION IV: 60 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

V HABITAT VALUE

1. **Is waterfowl habitat:** >50% of SW _____ (10 Points);
< 50% of SW _____ (5 Points)

2. **Categorize the SW's productivity for water-dependent birds.**

_____ Food, cover & surface water (15 Points)
_____ Cover & surface water (10 Points)
_____ Either food only; cover only; surface water only (5 Points)
_____ No food, cover and/or surface water (0 Points)

3. Is the SW habitat for listed (Fed./SC) rare, threatened or endangered species or species of special concern? Y _____ N _____

4. Does the subject wetland have basking sites available for reptiles? Y _____ N _____

5. Are hollow trees for denning/nesting/roosting sites:

_____ Plentiful (15 Points)

_____ Occasional (10 Points)

_____ Rare (5 Points)

6. Does SW serve as drinking water source for wildlife?

_____ Year-round (15 Points)

_____ Seasonal (10 Points)

_____ Temporary (5 Points)

7. Is there evidence of disturbance to wildlife (including hunting, trapping, baiting, etc.) or evidence of dead animals on site? N _____ Y _____ "N"=10; "Y"=0

8. Categorize the community interspersation (varying, mixed edge):

_____ High = > 66% (15 Points)

_____ Moderate = 33-66% (10 Points)

_____ Low = 0-33% (5 Points)

9. Categorize the habitat diversity:

_____ High (15 Points) Includes:

- Bottomland hardwood;
- Large, vegetatively diverse wetland >5 acres;
- Moderately-sized wetlands (1-5 acres) that are oases or part of a cluster with moderate to high community interspersation.

_____ Moderate (10 Points) Includes any blending of high and low value habitat diversity.

_____ Low (5 Points) Includes:

- Forested, scrub-shrub or moss wetland(s) not connected to adjoining forests by vegetated or water corridors;
- Small (< 1 acre) wetlands with potential toxic inputs; estuarine or marine wetlands exposed to waves, or without vegetation; and/or
- Palustrine or lacustrine wetlands that (1) have low vegetation diversity; or (2) are surrounded with urban development and have no connecting corridors; or (3) small wetlands with low vegetation diversity, low edge irregularity, no open water and are not part of an oases or cluster.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION V: 115 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

VI SOCIAL VALUE

1. **Is the SW in a rapid wetland loss area?** Y _____ N _____
2. **Does on-going recreation take place in the SW?** Y _____ N _____
Circle the activities: Hiking, birding, organized photography, sailing, power boating, non-power small boating, water skiing, horseback riding, other (list): _____

3. **Is the SW used for education?** Y _____ N _____
Circle the activities: Research, monitoring, educational field trips, outdoor overlooks, interpretive displays, other (list): _____
4. **Is the SW owned by an organized conservation group or public agency for the primary purpose of preservation, ecological enhancement and/or low-intensity recreation?** Y _____ N _____
5. **Have substantial public and/or private funds been provided to preserve the SW?**
Y _____ N _____ A "Y" answer may be made to any one or more of the following (circle the appropriate answer): Property purchase; conservation easement; access improvement; fisheries improvement; water quality improvement; buffer conservation; seeding/plant installation; grade improvement; hydrology improvement; wildlife habitat enhancement; fencing; other (list): _____
6. **Does the SW represent all or most (>50%) of this wetland system on Hilton Head Island?** Y _____ N _____
7. **Are there any point sources of pollution in nearby areas that might be impacted by the disturbance of this wetland?** Y _____ N _____ Describe: _____

8. **Are there any features of economic value in the SW or within 500 feet of the SW that might be impacted by the disturbance of this wetland?** Y _____ N _____
Describe: _____
9. **Is the SW used for consumptive activities?** Y _____ N _____ Circle the activities: Aquaculture, commercial/sport fishing, hunting, plant nursery, silviculture, water supply, other (list): _____
10. **Does the SW exist in an area where flood water storage is important?**
Y _____ N _____ SW is in Flood Zone _____.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION VI: 100 Points
ACTUAL SCORE: _____

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTIONS I – VI: 525 Points
ACTUAL SCORE, SECTIONS I – VI: _____

SCORING KEY

340 – 525 Points	NO ALTERATION IS PERMITTED
339 – and below	Some alteration may be permitted depending on section scoring (see wetland ordinance for details).